UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.166/PC/L.8
9 February 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
First session
31 January-11 February 1994
Agenda item 4

ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee

1. Decides to consider at its second session draft outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, which should consist of a draft declaration and a draft programme of action;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare the drafts within the framework of the objectives assigned to the World Summit by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/92 and in the light of the debates that took place in the Economic and Social Council in 1993 and during the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee;

3. Also decides that the report of the Secretary-General on the draft declaration and draft programme of action should be prepared in light of the following overall views:

(a) Social development - and particularly the eradication of poverty, the creation of employment opportunities and the strengthening of social integration - should become a major priority of our time;

(b) Human security, based on solidarity at the national and international level, is a key objective of the international community;

(c) In the global community, social problems are intensifying; social conflicts are frequent; inequities and poverty remain prevalent. Anxiety about violence is widespread, and large sections of many societies are experiencing a strong sense of exclusion. Unemployment is growing. Social integration is under stress in many societies. The World Summit was called to address these problems;

(d) Social development, which is a facet of a holistic process, requires the strong involvement of all actors on the national and international scene. Individuals, civil society, private enterprises, organizations and institutions, public institutions and the State, regional and international organizations with different mandates and responsibilities - all have a role to play for the betterment of the human condition. National action and international cooperation are complementary;

(e) There is need for an ethical perspective on human affairs, where dialogue and tolerance replace violence, human dignity is the central value, and the spiritual, material and cultural aspects of the human condition are developed harmoniously in a context of freedom and democracy.

4. Further decides that the draft declaration should:

(a) Be in three parts: common challenges justifying the Summit; a set of goals, principles and policies constituting a strategy to be implemented by all actors concerned; the expression of commitments, follow-up and responsibilities;

(b) Be shaped by the conviction that the welfare of people, in all its aspects, should be the rationale and ultimate goal of all policies and measures at the national and international level;

(c) Reflect a common vision of world affairs and of the future of mankind where partnership and the search for the common good link social development, improvement of living conditions and resolution of conflicts;

(d) Initiate a major reorientation of a number of ideas and policies on development and the progress of human societies;

(e) Remain concise and express common values, objectives and policies, as well as the need to exchange ideas and to learn from each other's experience;

(f) Recall previous commitments made through international instruments, conventions and declarations.

5. Also decides that the draft programme of action should:

(a) Have five parts: an enabling economic and global environment for social development; the eradication of poverty; the expansion of productive employment; enhancement of social integration; the role of the United Nations system, including its financial institutions;

(b) Reflect the fact that the reduction and elimination of poverty, the creation of productive and useful employment, and the realization of social integration through freedom, shared values and non-discrimination are related aspects of social progress, requiring diversified measures and policies, including sustainable economic growth, an equitable distribution of income and opportunities within and among countries, the rule of law and the development of democratic institutions;

(c) Be based on common principles and basic values applicable to all societies, while recognizing that policies should be adjusted to national circumstances and that the major responsibility for social development rests at the national level;

(d) Set forth the concrete actions to be taken by Governments, civil society, regional organizations and the international community, including possible quantified targets;

(e) Address the overall development problems of the least developed countries and of Africa, as well as the specific problems of the countries with changing economies and social political structures;

(f) Be formulated concisely and address in each of its sections the key priority actions necessary to the achievement of the goals related to the three core issues;

(g) Take into account the objectives and targets of recent related conferences - notably, the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Conference on Human Rights - and of forthcoming events, including the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

6. Notes that the three core issues identified by the General Assembly for consideration by the Summit and presented in the present decision and its annex (in an order which differs from that in the General Assembly resolution) are fundamental aspects of social development which have specific features and intensity in different societies and regions.

7. Also decides that in preparing the draft outcomes of the World Summit, the Secretary-General should take into account, inter alia, the Secretariat's summary of issues and elements contained in the annex to the present decision.